

NOTE

Some New Synonymy in the Dolichopodidae (Diptera)

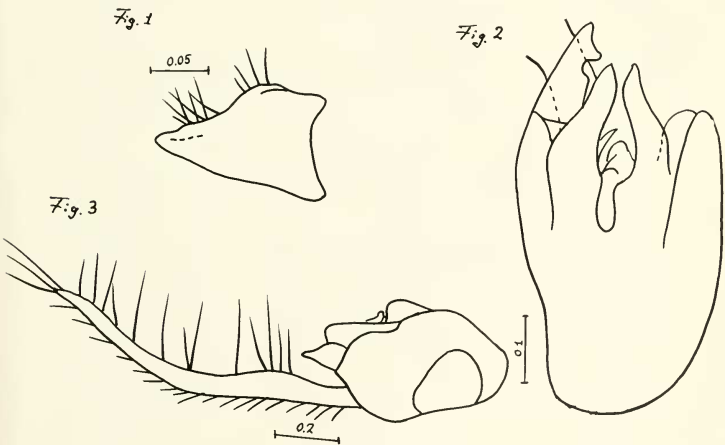
I examined the following types of Dolichopodidae in the United States National Museum, Washington, D.C. As the results of the study three new synonyms have been established.

1. *Hydrophorus signiferus* Coquillett (1899, in Jordan, Fur Seals 4:344). *Hydrophorus magnicornis* Frey (1915, Acta Soc. Fauna Flora Fenn. 40(5):70) is a NEW SYNONYM of *signiferus* Coquillett.

2. *Rhaphium dispar* Coquillett (1898, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 21:319). *Porphyrops argyroides* Parent (1926, Encyc. Entomol. (B) 2 Dipt. 3:137) is a NEW SYNONYM of *dispar* Coquillett.

3. *Porphyrops nudus* Van Duzee (1924, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. (1923). 63(21):9). This species is a NEW SYNONYM of *Rhaphium nasutum* (Falén) (1823, Monogr. Dolichopod. Sveciae :6 (*Hydrochus*)).

O. P. Negrobov, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University, Voronesh, USSR.



Figs. 1-3. *Rhaphium dispar*. 1, Gonopod, lateral. 2, Hypopygium, ventral. 3, Hypopygium, lateral.

BOOK REVIEW

*Record of My Life-Work in Entomology. 1903-1904.* By C. R. Osten Sacken. With an appreciation and introductory preface by K. G. V. Smith. E. W. Classey, Ltd. *Classica Entomologica* No. 2, fascimile edition, 240 pp. plus addenda and corrigenda and postscripts, 3 plates and a frontispiece. Cost £7.50.

Carl Robert Romanovich, Baron von der Osten Sacken has been called the Father of North American Dipterology, and well he deserves the title. His own contribution, spanning 50 years, included description of 456 Nearctic species. Perhaps of even greater significance were his cooperative endeavors, particularly with the German dipterist Hermann Loew, which resulted in an additional 1,276 species. His catalogs, published in 1852 and 1878, were the first for the North American fauna and provided a then up-to-date framework on a par with the better studied European fauna. In view of Osten Sacken's contribution, it is fitting that his entomological autobiography be reprinted in its entirety and be made more widely available.

"Record of My Life-Work in Entomology," as implied by the title, is Osten Sacken's own account of his dealings and associations in entomology. Classey's reprinted edition is complete, including postscripts and addenda and corrigenda. In addition, Classey's edition includes Osten Sacken's portrait, taken in 1902, as a frontispiece.

Many details of Osten Sacken's life, especially before his residence in the United States, were not dealt with in his autobiography and were not generally known. In this regard, K. G. V. Smith's preface to the reprinted edition contains many details of Osten Sacken's life, including his ancestry, family, and pertinent events of his youth and education.

Osten Sacken's association with other biologists, not just dipterists, adds to the value of his work. His insights into the personalities and whim of many nineteenth century entomologists is enlightening as well as fascinating. Osten Sacken's biased but candid assessment of his contemporaries is in many cases our most informative account of their work. His assessment also tells us much about his own abilities and perspective.

The underlying element of Osten Sacken's entomological autobiography, including his evaluation of others, is Hermann Loew, and in many respects the book is more of a critique of Loew than an autobiography. Although Osten Sacken admired Loew's "working power" "tenacity at work" and even admitted that Loew excelled in his predilection of *minutiae*, particularly within the domain of the Acalypterata, he was critical of Loew's mastery of the subject and his "unpardonable and studied disregard of his contemporaries in dipterology." Osten Sacken felt that Loew was "less gifted with a spontaneous insight into natural affinities of Diptera than his contem-

poraries, Robineau-Desvoidy and Rondani." Despite their differences, the liaison between Osten Sacken and Loew was fruitful and established the foundation of North American dipterology.

Classey's reprinted edition is a good reproduction of the original, and they are to be congratulated for their efforts in making valuable but scarce works, such as this, more generally available. I only wish that something besides the shiny white cover had been used; I would have preferred a color and luster more along the lines of a Russian Baron.

I am grateful to Alan Stone for providing the number of species-group names proposed by Osten Sacken and Loew.

Wayne N. Mathis, *Department of Entomology, NHB 169, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.*